

# St Croix Motor Museum

Postbus 27422  
Greenacres  
6057

Central Government Office  
Vermeulen Street  
Heritage Advisory Services  
Room A 531  
Pretoria

28 September 2012

## RE: ST. CROIX MOTOR MUSEUM

Good day Mr. de Villiers

Just a short history of the Museum and its purpose.

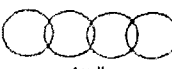
During the early '80's I initiated an idea with the P.E. Agricultural Society to exhibit a few cars to the public during their annual show, which they gladly accepted. After consulting a few friends I got enough vehicles together to put up a display for the aforementioned purpose. During the show I was approached by a member of the public to establish a permanent display of cars of collectable value. My first obstacle was availability and positioning of a suitable location.

After thorough research and consultation the old aircraft hanger was identified in Westview and a rental/lease agreement was concluded between myself and Department Public Works.

During 1987 this agreement was in place till March 2003 when I was informed that the SAPS was interested in acquiring the Museum premises. After consultation with staff from D.P.W I managed to get a ten year lease agreement in place.

Sel nr: 083 463 5286

Faks nr: 041 363 0659/086 686 0830



During this period I made many improvements i.e. fitting a new roof, installing a motor hoist, laying on a garden, planting trees shrubs and installing an alarm system.

By now the count of vehicles has grown to around 70. Various referral books and motor magazines plus about 4 000 kilos of spares were collected during this period. Visits to the Museum are free and the majority of visitors are from "black" schools from all over the country. Schools as far afield as Limpopo, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Northern Cape has paid visits to the Museum as recent as today 27/09/2012 (70 learners and 9 teachers were accommodated).

During 2008/2009 the SAPS started barricading the premises by cordoning off a large portion of land leading to the entrance of the Museum. 2 Meter high walls were built on Street level as well as the border abutting the Westview School. The entrance gate was fully clad with sheet metal and a guardhouse was erected blocking access to everybody including SARS (customs) and the security supply company.

I was personally confronted by Colonel Botha of SAPS for my refusal to sign a visitor's book - how ridiculous!!!!!!!!!!!!

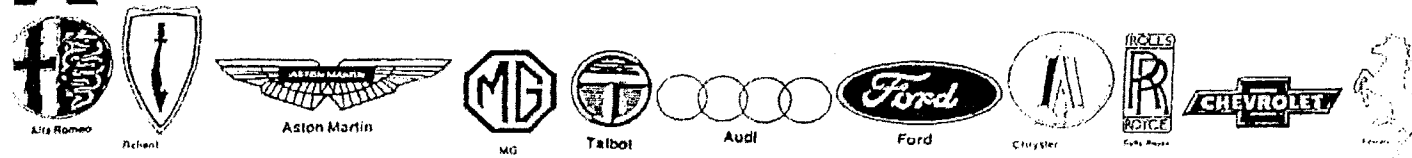
The public started complaining to me but to no avail as it was beyond my control. Subsequently a daily flow of SAPS wrecked vehicles started arriving. Some vehicles are then partially dismantled and then destroyed by compressing the wrecks on a 2 monthly basis. The situation is by now totally out of control as the "squashed" wrecks were left on site for ± a week. Visitors on Heritage Day had to endure the sight of this mess, till it was cleaned up yesterday afternoon 26-09-2012, after a report in the local Newspaper.

On signing the existing lease during 2003, I made use of the offer in the second paragraph of the cover letter which stated "with an option to renew". This offer was confirmed in 2003 when I returned the signed lease agreement with a written notice of intent.

During 2011 I was informed by a member of the Post Office that she believes that my "days are counted" at Westview. I subsequently established that her spouse works for D.P.W. A school teacher from Westview School met me during February and informed me that the SAPS will be taking the Museum building over next year. Big was my surprise that that people outside knows more about my dealings with D.P.W, than myself.

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During March 2012 I once again gave my intention to renew the lease by hand delivered letter. Acceptance of this was by Mrs. Sylvia Sigwanda of D.P.W. After numerous attempts since this letter I could not raise any response from Mr. Rodney Taai from D.P.W.

Eventually he responded on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 by means of the attached documentation of their decision.

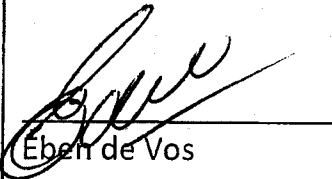
I approached Department of Tourism, whom in turn referred me to Mrs. Isaacs of The Heritage Foundation. Her input resulted in getting yourself on board.

Since the report appeared in the Burger of 25 September 2012 which provoked a lot of reaction form the public by letters and phone calls. Since SABC TV news team made a recording of the Museum and I had a 12 minute slot on our Regional Radio Station "Kingfisher FM". The Eastern Province Herald also came for an interview and took various pictures to possibly be placed tomorrow (29/09/2012).

I've had response from ALL over South Africa and as far afield as Perth Australia.

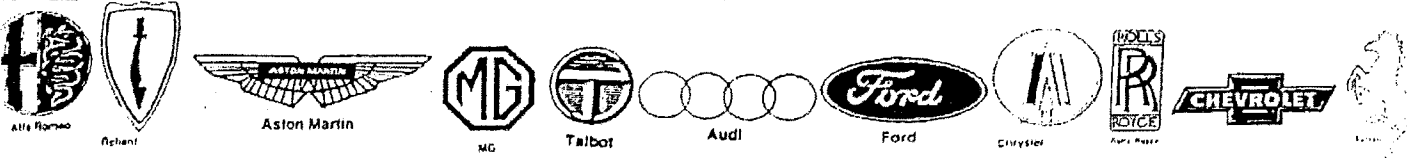
Please do your utmost in this regard as it is a main bone of contention for me and the Old Car Fraternity country wide.

Kind regards

  
Eben de Vos

Attached:

1. Copy of Lease
2. Termination letter and correspondence
3. The history of the Hanger
4. Accreditation of Museum
5. Site plan of entire premises where Museum is located



P.O. Box 27422  
GREENACRES  
6057

7 April 2003

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS  
PRIVATE BAG X3913  
PORT ELIZABETH  
6056

ATTENTION: S.L. MASIZA

LEASE OF PORTION OF ERF 150: ST. CROIX MOTOR MUSEUM, MILL PARK,  
PORT ELIZABETH

Herewith please find Lease Agreement entered to between myself and your Department. Please take note of the fact of your final paragraph "non-variation" item 21, that the document date was changed from 2002 to 2003 by the responsible person that signed on behalf of your Department. For record purposes I endorsed this by means of my signature against both changes for your attention.

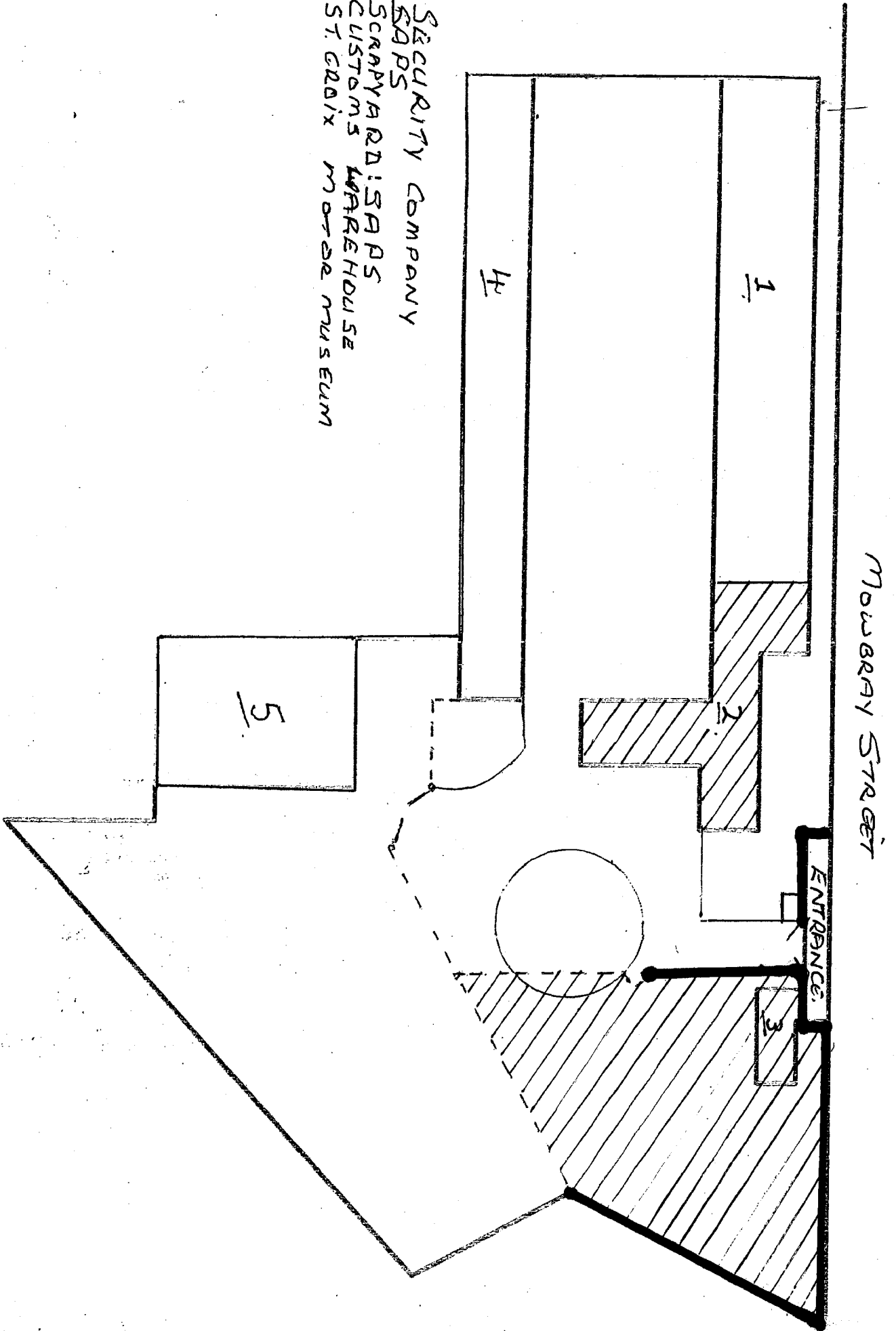
\* This letter also serves to inform you of my option to renew the lease for a further 10 years after expiry of the initial ten year period.

Thank you once again for the professional way in which you and your colleague dealt with me during your visit and inspection of my Museum.

Kind regards

EBEN DE VOS  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 041 – 3925362  
FAX NUMBER: 041 – 3925364  
CELL NUMBER: 083 463 5286  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: ebendevos@cybertrade.co.za

- 1 SECURITY COMPANY
- 2 SAPS
- 3 SCRAPYARD: SAPS
- 4 CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE
- 5 ST. GREGORY MUSEUM



Mrs. Sylvia Sigwanda  
Assistant Director  
Room 348  
Eben Dóngess Building  
Public Works Department  
Port Elizabeth  
6001

15 March 2012

R.E. Lease Agreement  
Reference number: Z6428/5629/4/0  
St. Croix Motor Museum

Dear Madam,

Our telephonic conversation of today refers.

Having occupied your premises known as "The aircraft hanger – Westview" for the past 24 years a well laid out Motor Museum was established to the benefit of the general public of our country.

The building in question was allocated to me on the condition that ALL maintenance will be for my own account. Since inception I have replaced the entire roof at a cost of ± R58 000.00 as well as the south facing façade of the building at a further cost of R18 500.00. The external front façade was also repainted during December 2011. All safety equipment and installations are kept on National Standards as the Museum is Registered with the South African Museum Association (SAMA).

90% of my visitors are from the rural areas in the erstwhile Transkei of which I have full record. Busloads of kids are being transported to this venue where I personally entertain them on a tour and in formation talk on the history of the Automotive Industry for ± 2 hours.

Port Elizabeth was known as the "Detroit of South Africa" having had 2 major car manufactures, Chevrolet and Ford since the early 1920's. Both these company's are still operational in South Africa, but only G.M. (General Motors) the Chevrolet manufacturer, remained in Port Elizabeth. I have one of the first Chevrolet cars that were fully built in 1926 on display in the Museum.

Having my lease expiring in March 2013, I respectfully request an extension for a further 10 years as this Museum features across the world and is a great component of our City Tourism.

For further information the Museum's website can be visited at : [www.oldcarsafrica.com](http://www.oldcarsafrica.com)

Hoping that my request meets with your favorable consideration.

Yours in anticipation

"Enkosi Kakhulu"



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Eben de Vos / mb  
Director



public works

Department:  
Public Works  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X3193, NORTH END 6056, Port Elizabeth. Int Code: +27 41 Tel: 041-4082080, Fax: 041-4847825  
E-mail: [Rodney.Taai@dpw.gov.za](mailto:Rodney.Taai@dpw.gov.za) / Website: [www.publicworks.gov.za](http://www.publicworks.gov.za)

04 July 2012

Mr. Eben De Vos  
Mount Croix Motor Museum  
P O Box 27422  
GREENACRES  
6057

Dear Sir

**EXPIRY OF LEASE CONTRACT:  
ERF 150 MILLPARK – STATE WAREHOUSE**

Your correspondence regarding the above matter refers.

Please be informed that your lease in respect of the above property will expire on the 31<sup>ST</sup> of March 2013. This department will not extend your lease period beyond the expiry date and does not wish to renew the lease contract. This is due to the operational requirements of our various client departments, which are currently sharing the site with you. The department acknowledges the historical value of the Museum and its contribution to the preservation of our heritage in the city of Port Elizabeth, with specific reference to the motor industry. The department also acknowledges the fact that you have maintained the property in good order for a very long period of time, however, the National Department of Public Works, has to fulfil its primary mandate, which is the provision of accommodation for all National Government Departments. The department will liaise with you for the official handing over of the property on a date prior to the expiry date, which is convenient to you.

Yours faithfully

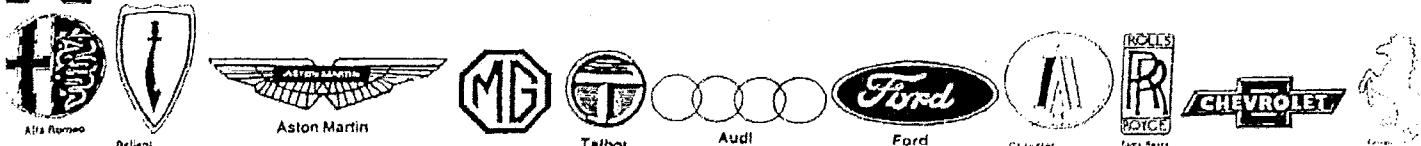
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Lelepha la Okro lsa Setshaba Department of Public Works Lelepha la Mesebetsi ya Setshaba Kgoro ya Mésomo ya Setshaba Ndzawudoya Minitho ya Vaakli LITiko la Temisebend  
ya Hukumende Yamphakathi ISaba la Misebenzi yohUNtu UmNyango wezemiSebenzi yomPhakathi ulMnyango Wamisebenzi Yamphakathi eLiphakathi Mubusho wa Nshumo ya  
Tshabafwa Departement van Openbare Werke



# List of visitor bookings

<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Amount of people</u>	<u>From</u>
Kingfisher FM	8	Port Elizabeth
Kalana L/HP School	62	King William's Town
Mayibenye J.S. School	80	Oos-Londen
ZCC Church Group	12	KZN
Chevrolet Toer	40	GM South Africa
Speedyquip SQP Cars	12	Port Elizabeth
Scout Club South Africa	30	Port Elizabeth
Thunder Tour	70	Johannesburg
Masomwabe S.P. School	65	Engcobo
Twalikuhy J.S. School	30	Mwanduli (KZN)
Mantsi Sky Tours & Events	25	Port Elizabeth
Nonceba J.S. School	60	KZN
Ngqunoe J.S. School	60	Umtata
SASSA	70	Butterworth
Tembeni S.P. School	50	Engcobo
Nontloko J.S. School	33	KZN
Davidson School	27	Alice
Ikgomotseng P.P. School	60	Schweizer-Reneke
Witwatersrand Division	66	Limpopo Province
Aha-Serjhaba P. School	60	Parys
Maruping P. School	85	Burgersdorp
Zwelitsha H.P. School	59	Zwelitsha
Gooldville Mission School	65	Vhufuli, Northern Province
Lenyora-La-Thuto Comprehensive School	130	Botshabelo
Nkosiyakhe S.P. School	60	Tarkastad
Anluyg P.J. School	80	Engcobo
Tlotlanang Combined School	40	Thaba Nchu
Letlotlo P. School	60	Bloemfontein
Tsomo J.S. School	65	Tsomo



## List of visitor bookings

<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Amount of people</u>	<u>From</u>
Probus Club	30	Port Elizabeth
Sizwe J.S. School	45	Indwe
Hadis J.S. School	66	Willowvale, Transkei
Gooldville Mission School	70	Port Elizabeth
Kobomqaba J.S. School	80	Transkei
Theodor Herzl P. School	26	Walmer, Port Elizabeth
St. George's College	60	Central, Port Elizabeth
Empumalanga J.S. School	35	KZN
Ntskeni S.S. School	57	Umzimkhulu
Amaphisi High School	50	Kwa-Zulu Natal
St Boniface P.P. School	90	Middelburg
Tsela-Chueu S. School	15	Limpopo Prvince

